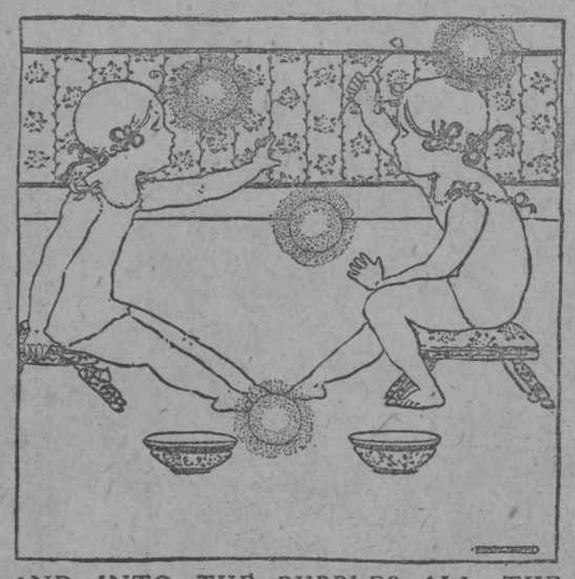
The New Impressionist School of Art as Seen in Children's Picture Books.

AND ARABELLA SAID, "I WILL BE GOOD, DEAR PAPA!" AND ARAMINTA SAID, "I WILL BE GOOD, DEAR PAPA!"



AND INTO THE BUBBLES ALL THE BEAUTIFUL COLORS OF THE RAINBOW CAME!

AND WHEN THE DOLLS BEGAN TO DANCE, YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD THESE LITTLE GIRLS LAUGH.

HOW LIGHTLY THEY MARCH THROUGH THE SOFT GREEN GRASS! HOW HIGH THEIR BALLOONS FLOAT IN AIR!

BEARDSLEY FOR THE YOUNG

A Boston Book for Children in Yellow Book Style.

Wonderful is the pervading influence of the Aubrey Beardsley school of illustration. From its original association with one single eccentric publication it has now spread to a book of stories for children. The difference between the Yellow Book and the story book is so great that it indicates the extent to which the Beardsley art prevails.

Messrs. Copeland & Day, of Boston, who are noted as makers of beautiful books, publish "The Arabella and Araminta stories by Gertrude Smith with an Introduction by Mary E. Wilkins Embellished with XV. Illustrative designs by Ethel Reed and Explanatory Notes by the Author of the Book."

Miss Reed's illustrations consist of the same patches of black and white and the same geometrical figures as those of Aubrey Beardsley. They are as free from naturalness as his work and as decorative. But the style is made suitable for children. They are round, cherubic faces that peep out of the midst of the designs. The sinful, monstrous Beardsley faces are properly absent. The illustrations are very pretty.

From the following extract from "The Poppy Story" one can gain an idea of the originality of the style:

"Arabella was four years old, and Araminta was four years old.

"Arabella had blue eyes and yellow hair, and Araminta had brown eyes and yellow hair. Arabella was a very pretty little girl, and Araminta was a very pretty little girl.

"And sometimes Arabella was naughty when Araminta was good, and sometimes Araminta was naughty when Arabella was good.

"Arabella lived in a white house on a green hill, and Araminta lived in a white house on a green hill—(It was the same house, of course you know, and the same hill, of course you know, for Arabella and Araminta were little twin sisters). Arabella's mamma was Araminta's mamma, and Arabella's papa was Araminta's papa.

"At the foot of the hill, back of their house, was a large field of poppies, and one day Arabella ran down the hill and away out into the field of poppies, and Araminta ran down the hill and away out into the field of poppies.

"And Arabella picked a poppy, and Araminta picked a poppy, and Arabella picked a poppy, and Araminta and Arabella picked a poppy, and Araminta picked up a poppy, and Araminta picked a poppy, and Arabella picked a poppy, and Araminta picked a poppy, until they each had a great big bunch (I should say a very large bunch), and then they ran back to the house.

"Arabella got a glass and put her poppies in it, and Araminta got a glass and put her poppies in it."

This sounds very much more literary than the old-fashioned writing for very small children. It should educate the infant taste in the use of chaste and elegant, though simple, English. The effort to preserve a distinct recollection of Arabella and Araminta as separate persons must also prove a valuable mental exercise.

"A Story of the Woods" is a pleasant idyl, which will appeal to all ages, because it tells how, encouraged by the example of Arabella and Araminta, "that funny mamma and that funny papa just pulled off their shoes and stockings and waded right into the brook."

The red bird who came to take a bath in the same brook was an attractive fellow:

"Arabella had never seen a red bird before, and Araminta had never seen a red bird before.

"And when the red bird had finished his bath he stood on a stone in the sun; and his red back shone in the sun. And he tipped his head first on one side and then on the other, and he looked at Arabella and he looked at Araminta. I think he was saying: 'I'm glad to see you, Arabella; I'm glad to see you, Araminta. I'm glad you came to the woods to stay all day and play.'"

Observe the rhythmical quality of the following:

"Then she went and found two pipes—two white clay pipes—and she got two bowls of water, with some soapsuds in them. And she gave a pipe to Arabella and a pipe to Araminta, and she showed them how to blow soap bubbles with some water and a pipe. And into the bubbles the color came—all the beautiful colors of the rainbow.

"And Arabella blew a bubble as large as a teacup, and Araminta blew a bubble as large as a little bowl!

"And Arabella blew a bubble as large as a teacup, and Araminta blew a bubble as large as a little bowl!

"And Arabella screamed with joy, and said: 'Oh! Oh! Oh! I do see a rainbow; a little truly rainbow, in my bubble, mamma!'

"And Araminta screamed with joy, and said: 'Oh! Oh! Oh! I do see a rainbow; a little truly rainbow, in my bubble, mamma!'

"And their mother said: 'Yes, yes, I see, dears; but look at your dresses; oh, dears, they're as wet, as wet as they can be! You must go right and take them off.'

"And, oh, that mischief Arabella; and oh, that mischief Araminta! What do you think they did?

"Why, they took their dresses off, and took off their little skirts, so nothing was upon them except their little shirts!

"And then they blew soap bubbles, more and more soap bubbles, with nothing else upon them except their little shirts!"

There is also some brilliant poetry in the book, of which the following is an example:

"I should not think a turtle dove
Could sit up in a tree
And hold by his two little feet
While making melody.

"I wonder why the pigeons
Have never learned to write.
Such bright-eyed, clever little birds,
I really think they might!

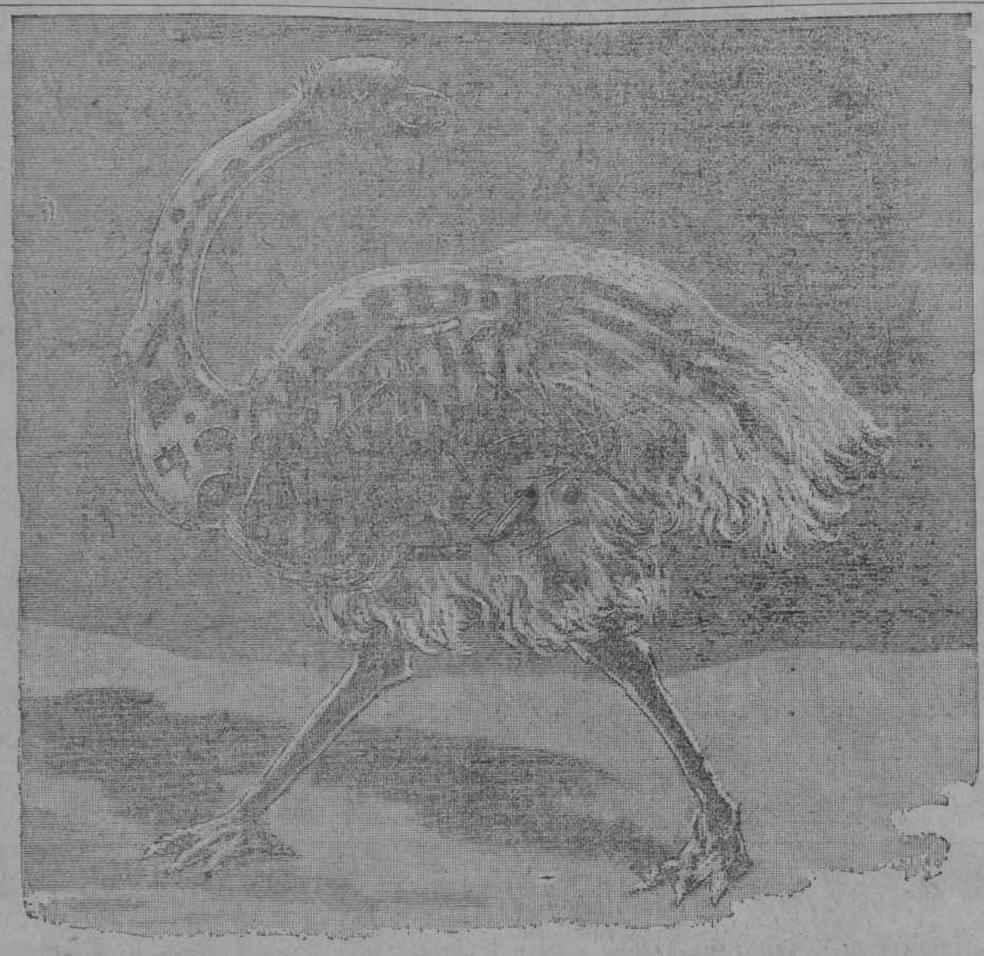
"I can't think why a cherry tree
Should never raise a pear,
But always cherries, cherries red,
A-bobbing in the air.

"I don't see how an apple
In one Summer can learn how
To grow up from a blossom
And hang upon a bough.

"What would you do, what could you do
If some fine Summer day
The leaves should all be faces
And watch you while you play?

"Suppose this tree should change its mind
Before another Spring,
And turn into a giant
And tell us everything?"

It is safe to say that "The Arabella and Araminta Stories" will have a great success.



The Ostrich That Was a Walking Junk Shop.

BIRD THAT ATE JUNK.

Extraordinary Find in the Stomach of Socrates, the Pet Central Park Ostrich.

"Socrates," one of the largest birds ever shown in captivity, had been for ten years a familiar although dingy figure in the Barnum show. He was called Socrates on account of his singularly grave and sedate manner. Socrates died the other day, and the autopsy revealed a remarkable exhibit.

During the show season watchful attendants were careful to see that his gastric apparatus was not overladen with large offerings of junk. Socrates has, however, passed annually five of the Autumn, Winter and Spring months at the Central Park Zoo, and it was during these sojourns that the boys of New York were enabled to pursue their researches as to the limits of the ostrich menu.

The articles revealed were of varying ages. Some of them had been but recently acquired. This was true of a small silk handkerchief, which Socrates had on his last day on earth ravished from the hands of a little girl. Some two dozen nails and screws, from their appearance had been out of worldly service for years. The round bottoms of two beer bottles had been worn smooth and harmless on the edges. A buckle remained alone of a skate strap, probably acquired last Winter. A ladies' small side comb was of recent acquisition. A mouth harmonica, five inches long by two wide, was recognized by one of the Barnum keepers, who said that a boy threw it into the cage one day last Summer when the show was at Pittsburg. Socrates picked it up, crosswise in his mouth, with the result that as he breathed upon the keys they gave forth a mournful wail, which so startled the bird that he swallowed it. As it went down the instrument squawked again, and Socrates showed much alarm and danced about in a singular manner for some time. A wooden top, with the paint long since eaten off, plainly showed the powerful effects of the gastric juices of the ostrich. A brass door key and a steel skate wrench were comparatively new.

Two lumps of coal, about the size of pigeon's eggs, were also of recent arrival. There was an assortment of a dozen marbles, "chinas," "patricks," "crystals" and an "agate." These the former keeper said he never objected to as they "helped to aid digestion." Three irregular chips of granite were unimpaired by their environment, but a small stock of limestone was as porous as a sponge, the lime having been absorbed.

The ferrule of an umbrella was not accepted as evidence that Socrates had ever appropriated one of the articles in its entirety. There were many little scraps of metal and other objects the original form of which could not be determined, but taking the lot in its entirety, it was not sufficient to have caused the bird in life any real anxiety. That the ostrich does purposely take into its stomach small stones as an aid to digestion is an established fact. The former keeper expressed surprise that among the bric-a-brac discovered there was not found a watch, a diamond garring and several finger rings of more or less value, which people had claimed at various times to have lost at the instance of Socrates.

BUOYS IN MID-OCEAN.

This Invention Will Light a Path Across the Seas.

A system of automatic buoys is to be placed in New York harbor that will demonstrate the success of one of the most marvellous inventions of the age, one which permits the location of buoys in midocean, refuges for shipwrecked mariners.

The United States Government has appropriated $250,000 for the New York harbor buoys. Several of them were first placed off Nantucket, and so thoroughly did they realize the promise made that the Government experts enthusiastically indorsed them.

The inventor is Reuben H. Plass, an engineer, of No. 508 Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn. According to his plans a system of the automatic whistling buoys, each large enough to be used as a refuge by shipwrecked mariners, can be strung in linked chains along every dangerous coast and the recognized steamer routes across the oceans. Mr. Plass would, in fact, make every coast and every ocean a series of lighted pathways.

The starting point and groundwork of the engineer's scheme lies in a system of miniature and automatic lighthouses. He would stud the coasts of the world's oceans, lakes and navigable rivers with hundreds of thousands of signal beacons, connected with each other and with central stations by telegraph and telephone land cables.

The value of such stations cannot easily be estimated. Each of them would be located at intervals of one mile along the coast. By means of a light and a whistle, varied so as to distinguish one beacon from the other, warning would be given to the befogged mariner that he was approaching a dangerous coast. Or, providing a wreck had occurred along the coast, each of these automatic lighthouses, being provided with telegraph and telephone communication with the main life saving station, could be used to call assistance either by the coast patrol or by anyone from the wreck lucky enough to reach the shore in safety. The patents on these miniature lighthouses will provide for the use of oil, gas, or an electric white Fresnel lens light as a visible signal, simultaneously with a whistle as an audible signal. Each beacon will have its registered number, indicated by variations in the color and the revolving time of the light and by the length and frequency of the whistle.

Mr. Plass would place in front of each life saving station on the coast or shore one of this system of beacons, the light from it being of greater intensity than the rest, and the whistle being replaced by a siren or fog horn, of greater vehemence. All the signals in the system are designed to be heard and seen under ordinary circumstances at a distance of at least five miles from the coast. The mariner would only have to take the number, when by referring to his chart he could ascertain his exact location upon a coast.

This very comprehensive scheme does not stop at the erection of the shore beacons, but introduces a life saving coast buoy, or floating lighthouse, which is the most interesting of Mr. Plass's many inventions, and is capable of great extension and wide usefulness.

Within a marine league off shore, and in front of each of the beacons already described, the inventor would place one of these remarkable buoys. Each buoy would carry a light and a whistle corresponding in intensity and vehemence to the shore beacon, and connected by means of submarine telegraphic and telephonic cables with each other and with the beacons on shore, and through them, with all the life saving stations and district headquarters on the coasts. A turreted deck enclosure, containing simple receiving transmitting instruments, would complete the buoy and make it a refuge for distressed mariners, and also a most valuable and unique defense for the coasts in time of war.

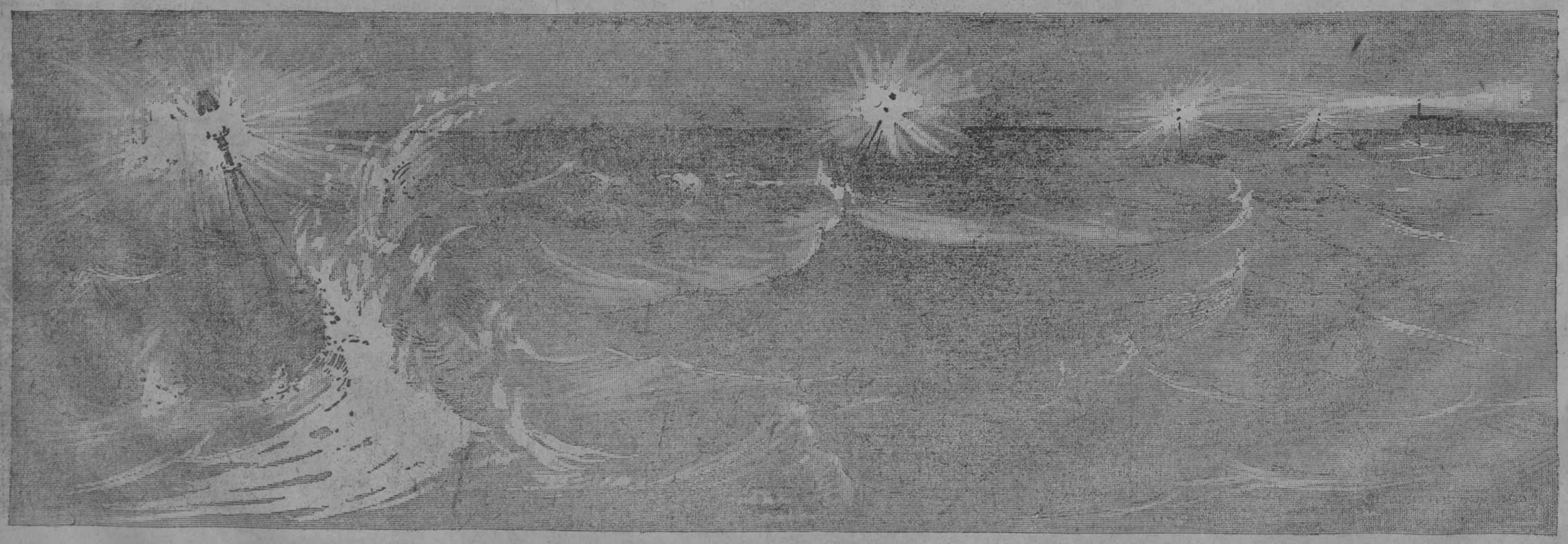
In laying his plans for this transoceanic system Mr. Plass has provided for all contingencies. He would place his buoys at a distance of a mile or more apart and would make each of them thirty to fifty feet in diameter. Each would be unsinkable, numbered and registered, and contain lighting and whistling apparatus similar to that patented and used in the coast buoys. Moreover, they must be built in such a manner as to make them easily accessible, in order that they may be used by persons in distress as well as by passing vessels which wish to communicate with the shore.

A remarkable feature of these buoys is the fact that they are made to automatically produce their own gas and electricity for illumination, and their own compressed air for operating the whistle and the siren or fog horn. The motive power to operate is derived from the oscillatory movement of the buoy, caused by the swell of the wave. This movement pumps compressed air into the reservoir, which is used for the production of a hydro-carbon gas for both illuminating and fuel for cooking purposes when desired.

A steel mast, fifty or sixty feet in height, rises from the deck of the buoy, with ladders leading up to a crow's-nest beneath the lantern. For the lamp Mr. Plass prefers a gas burner, which can be automatically relighted once a minute by a spark of electricity should the buoy be submerged by a wave and the light extinguished. The turreted enclosure upon a railed-in deck makes each buoy a refuge for the shipwrecked. Leading from beneath the surface of the ocean to the deck of the buoys are secured four metal ladders. By these a shipwrecked person is expected to reach the deck of the buoy, where he can enter the turreted enclosure by a keyless door. The opening of this door operates a lever which signals to each of the other buoys of the line the presence of some one on the buoy requiring their assistance. If the man who boards the buoy can use the telegraph or telephone apparatus he can place himself at once in direct communication with those who can rescue him. While waiting for assistance he will find material on the buoy to sustain life.

Every tenth or twentieth buoy in the ocean line will be designed as a double-decked scientific or weather buoy, containing sleeping and living quarters and all the stores necessary to maintain a staff consisting of a meteorological officer and two assistants. A lifeboat and raft will make it a life-saving station. Telegraph and telephone cables will enable it to receive and transmit messages to and from either shore and passing vessels, their officers and passengers. The staff will also be able to report all vessels passing them, and all desired maritime information from vessel officers to the owners and agents, and also the presence of vessels in distress, shipwrecks, icebergs, derelicts, etc.

In order that the whole or part of the system may be effectually carried out, Mr. Plass believes that it will be necessary for it to be controlled by a cable company. This company would collect and sell to the Government or countries benefited the ocean meterological information, and would also, if possible, lease to the Government private wires through the ocean cable.



The New Telephone Buoys to Light Up a Path Across the Ocean.